Response Paper on *"Contested Cities: Social Process and Spatial Form"* by David Harvey

This chapter underlines the issue how discussion about cities has often been absent in modernization discourse, including postmodernism, modernity, and capitalist and industrial society – although the amount of cities or urban areas keeps increasing. Creating perspective that cities are "just" secondary feature of the whole dynamic of social processes inside it, which David Harvey, the author finds it "essentially wrong".

Harvey argues that cities are "sites of conflict" within the intersectionality; race, gender, class that play role in each social process. The processes are both "shaped by time and place and shape time and place" and will influence and shape the development of the cities afterwards.

Social process can continuously give impact long-term e.g. nuclear power plant to meet the urban energy need or massive highway to solve transportation problem. Harvey states, "what looks like a good solution to urban development to one generation (…) may appear very problematic to the next generation" and therefore he rationalizes urban planners and policy makers to design cities that are more adjustable and sustainable in order to support the fluid social processes that can change overtime to improve urban life. Nevertheless, urban situation in mass population will define the life quality of its inhabitants.

Foucault's analysis is often adapted on the approach how to improve the condition of urban life among mass population, in which social control mostly plays huge role to achieve this innovation–or improvement. This intervention results a "visionary notion of an alternative city" that is supposed to provide repression among marginalized population through accessible public facilities and service, since "history failed to recall the reorganization and its consequences"; and causing marginalization, disempowerment, alienation, pollution, and degradation.

Harvey sees in the past that cities were considered more important than now, especially from capitalist perspective, resulting the disappearance of reformism between big capital and the bourgeoisie which produce a blasé indifference on the part of the rich and powerful. The bourgeoisie has privilege to create gated communities that enable them to apart themselves from what they call by the term 'underclass'. This difference causes the 'underclass' to live in a very contrast situation than the upperclass, where they become marginalized, as if "the poor no longer matter". Besides, community plays huge role of urban development, the mutual understanding

and desire can actually help to achieve a better living among co-inhabitants and the environment since "everything is related to everything". And that makes urbanization an ecological process.

Fundamental question Harvey asked is the relationship between process and form. The focus should be more weighed on the process rather than sole 'things' by thinking 'things' as products of process. The relationship between urbanization and the city constructs at different historical moments and all superimposed upon each other.

The reduction of the urban – which is "the portrayal of the city as a minor feature of social organization" happens because of the assumption about nature of space and time or space/ time. But through 'relational view' (incorporated in *"Social Justice in the City"* that Harvey employed twenty years ago) "space and time do not exist outside of process: process defines space/time". Through this, cities can be seen as producer if multiple frameworks that are worked out. Urban and the city are not solely constituted by social process, but they are constitutive of them. The social process will rise something, creates the things, and therefore enhance the nature of the process. Urban construction will define the system and is fundamental on how the social process itself operates. City is ecological and is fundamental to ecological feature. It should come first before anything and the main concern should focus more on how the city is constructed and framed, instead of contestation inside it.